

2004 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 120

Directing the Joint Commission on Technology and Science to identify nanotechnology research and related economic development opportunities for the Commonwealth. Report.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 17, 2004

Agreed to by the Senate, March 9, 2004

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has a tradition of industrial excellence, from large enterprises to entrepreneurs, which has existed in traditional industries, as well as in emerging industries; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth now has the opportunity to build on its existing expertise and become a national and international leader in nanomanufacturing, an emerging industry; and

WHEREAS, nanotechnology promises to transform most industries and will have a particularly profound impact on health care, homeland security, national defense and the national infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, nanotechnology is poised to become the largest government science initiative since the space race as demonstrated by the president's FY04 budget request of \$849 million for nanotechnology research and development (R&D); and

WHEREAS, according to one report, more than \$3 billion will have been invested worldwide in nanotechnology R&D in 2003 increasing to a predicted \$1 trillion by 2015; and

WHEREAS, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, New York and Texas are among the states that have announced their commitment to nanotechnology; and

WHEREAS, while manufacturing remains central to the country's economic growth and improving standard of living, nanomanufacturing will require new skills and new equipment; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has an existing national recognition in nanotechnology, as its leading research universities and national laboratories continue to produce groundbreaking work in biomedicine, electronically functional nanomaterials, alternative energy resources, and nanostructured coatings; and

WHEREAS, additionally, the Commonwealth has existing industrial strengths where nanotechnology will play a critical role, including health care, aerospace, semiconductors, communications, information technology, chemicals, and power generation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Joint Commission on Technology and Science be directed to identify nanotechnology research and related economic development opportunities for the Commonwealth. In conducting its study, the Commission shall consider the efficacy of creating a statewide, comprehensive, and coordinated strategy to (i) secure additional federal research and development funds, and (ii) increase commercial activity in this fast-emerging sector. The Commission may appoint an advisory committee to assist it with its work. However, all persons appointed to the advisory committee shall be citizens of the Commonwealth. The Commission may require that such persons serve in a voluntary capacity without compensation.

Technical assistance shall be provided to the Commission and its advisory committee by the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, the Secretary of Technology, the Center for Innovative Technology, and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Commission and its advisory committee for this study, upon request.

The Joint Commission on Technology and Science and its advisory committee shall complete their meetings by November 30, 2004, and the Chairman of the Commission shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and recommendations, including any findings and recommendations of its advisory committee, no later than the first day of the 2005 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall state whether the Commission intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a document. The executive summary and report shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

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